

THE LABOUR ORGANISER

No. 62

MARCH, 1926.

Price 4d.

OUT OF THE RUT

IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF

Among the latest recruits to the ranks of "The Four-Figure Labour Parties" we are pleased to note the Nottingham South D.L.P. The exact figures are not given us but we are informed by Mr. H. C. Allcock, the secretary and agent, to whom our congratulations are due, that the fully paid-up membership now exceeds 1,000. We should be extremely glad if our friends in other constituencies would notify us as they pass the 1,000 mark and we shall be pleased to publish all particulars of such in the "Labour Organiser."

A word of praise is due to the energetic and courageous few who keep the flag flying at Weston-super-Mare—the spot where a dastardly attack was made last year on one of the Labour Party propagandists. This constituency is not only in a difficult area but it has its own peculiar difficulties, and all the more credit is therefore due that we are able to extract a lesson from this quarter to-day. Below we print a card which has been printed, and which is being used with some effect in discovering fresh enthusiasts. We feel sure others will find it useful to copy this method.

We also have before us the Weston-super-Mare "Labour News Sheet" a little octavo leaflet printed both sides at the press of the I.L.P., Weston-super-Mare. We understand this first issue consisted of just a thousand copies and that they have been distributed from door to door. The cost, at the Movement's own printing press, has not been very great, and certainly "The News Sheet" would prove an attractive piece of propaganda. We notice that the April issue is to be a special edition for Clevedon, the only other town in this Division. It occurs to us that our friends may not be aware of the Labour "Press Service" issued by the National Labour Party, a copy of which may be obtained for the asking. The "Press Service" would supply them with some very effective paragraphs and propaganda pars, and as the same is published each week there are four issues from which to choose and extract matter for a monthly paper.

Little Lever, wedged in the northern end of the Farnworth Division, and overshadowed by the great towns around, may not be accounted much in

Socialism In Our Time!

(and in our Division.)

ONLY spadework will do it. Are you willing to give an hour's work a week—at distributing leaflets, collecting contributions, etc.?

Don't let us take it for granted: let us know.

To the Secretary,

YES.

Name

Address

.....

the annals of the great Labour Movement in South-East Lancashire, yet, as in many another little place, there be stalwarts here, and they and any others who send to us so good a record shall have their places in the sun in the columns of the "Labour Organiser." The Party was formed in January, 1922. There is a population of 5,000 and there are 200 members of the Labour Party. Lectures take place every other Tuesday and are intermixed with socials, whist drives, dances and similar functions. There is a jumble sale each year and rambles in the summer, and even at the last accounting after much expenditure on local elections and public meetings, there was £13 in hand. To faint hearts in other places we would say, "Go thou and do likewise."

We reproduce below an original handbill issued by the Sparkbrook (Birmingham) Divisional Labour Party. In Mr. J. Webb the Party have a hard-working and enterprising secretary, and the attack on Mr. Amery's seat is being led with vigour and persistence.

The Colchester D.L.P. are among the few Parties who have published a comparative statement of income, and the great progress made may be here set out.

		£	s.	d.
Income 1922	....	41	3	5
„ 1923	....	1,079	12	11
„ 1924	....	1,810	8	2
„ 1925	....	2,537	15	11

Excellent membership figures are shown in the report and the membership of the Party at the end of the year was 2,100. There was also a club membership of 1,700. Fifty-nine thousand copies of the "Colchester Times" were distributed during the year and although the paper shows a loss it is obvious that the propaganda work accomplished has been worth the money spent. A bazaar realised a profit of £130. We think there are few Parties who present their accounts so clearly and in so much detail as the Colchester D.L.P., and the printed report and statement is an illustration of successful business management in Labour Party affairs.

SPARKBROOK DIVISIONAL LABOUR PARTY

WILL YOU HELP TO WIN

SPARKBROOK for LABOUR?

Should you WANT ADVICE on any of the following matters :

WIDOWS' PENSIONS	....	....	....	....
EX-SERVICEMEN'S PENSIONS	....	....	....	....
POOR LAW RELIEF	....	....	....	....
RENTS RESTRICTION ACTS	....	....	....	....
HOUSING	....	....	....	....
YOUR VOTE	....	....	....	....
SECONDARY EDUCATION	....	....	....	....
JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES	....	....	....	....

Kindly put a X opposite same, write your Name and Address below.

Name

Address

and return to Mr. JOHN WEBB, Hon. Secretary, 44, Osborn Road, Sparkbrook, who will then arrange for an interview.

The Newport Labour Party have a reputation for big things and readers will therefore be interested in the novel method of advertising Party membership which has just been embarked upon. We reproduce below a double

demy poster issued by the Party and we fancy the idea of poster advertising for the purpose of making opportunities for Party membership known is one that will be widely copied.

ARE YOU A LABOUR SUPPORTER

If so, You should be an
INDIVIDUAL MEMBER
OF THE
LABOUR PARTY

AND HOLD A TICKET AS UNDER :

1926.
THE LABOUR PARTY

NEWPORT PARLIAMENTARY DIVISION.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER'S CARD—MAN.

No.

Name

Amount of Subscription £ : :

This Card is a receipt for the Annual Subscription, and entitles the Holder to a voice and vote at the Party's Business Meetings of his Polling District.

Secretary—W. B. LEWCOCK,
84 Stow Hill, Newport, Mon.

Minimum 1/- per year MEN.
Subscription 6d. „ „ WOMEN.

Tickets can be had from Stewards of Clubs, Ward Secretaries, or at the Labour Party Offices, Stow Hill, Newport.

ROLL UP AND JOIN YOUR PARTY
AND HELP WIN NEWPORT FOR LABOUR.

W. B. LEWCOCK, Secretary.

NATIONAL PROPAGANDA SERVICES.

ADDRESS BY MR. W. W. HENDERSON TO LANCASHIRE LABOUR AGENTS.

Mr. W. W. Henderson, Secretary of the Joint Press and Publicity Department of the Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party, addressed a meeting of the Lancashire and Cheshire Labour Agents on "National Propaganda Services" at Manchester on Friday, March 5th.

Mr. Henderson dealt with the Weekly Labour Press Service, the Monthly Bulletin of Information, the Weekly Notes for Speakers, and other propaganda services made available by headquarters.

Referring to leaflets and pamphlets, Mr. Henderson dealt with the need for strengthening and extending the distributive machinery of the Party. The success of the Labour Party propaganda services, he pointed out, was largely dependent upon the active co-operation of the local Labour organisations. He urged that every local organisation ought to do everything in its power to assist the Head Office to secure the widest possible distribution for its pamphlets and leaflets. If every local organisation made itself responsible for disposing of a minimum of twelve copies of every pamphlet issued, the result would be mutually advantageous to the National Party and the local Party. The financial results that would thus be attained would enable the National Party to provide a much wider range of literature and pamphlets and to give more attention than was possible at present to special needs and special issues.

In the absence of a network of Labour dailies, evening and weekly newspapers, the Labour Party must rely to a larger extent than any of the other political parties, on the utilisation of written propaganda in the form of leaflets and pamphlets, etc., and in order to obtain the maximum of results it was desirable that effective arrangements should be made to ensure a much wider and more effective distribution. He urged that every local Labour Party should have a Literature Secretary who should make it his special business to co-operate with the Head Office with a view to securing that everything possible would be done as part of the normal activities of the local Party to increase the sales and dis-

tribution of Head Office literature. Mr. Henderson appealed to the Agents to render what assistance they could to this end in their own particular areas. He added that headquarters would be ready at any time to receive and to give careful consideration to any helpful suggestions that the Agents might desire to make having for their object the strengthening and improvement of the Head Office literature and publicity services.

A useful discussion followed in which most of the Agents present took part, and assurances were given that everything possible would be done to ensure close co-operation between the constituencies and the Head Office for the more effective use of propaganda services.

CIRCULAR TO REGISTRATION OFFICERS.

The latest circular to Registration Officers dated 8th March, 1926, is concerned with instructional matter relating to dispatch of notices to Absent Voters and communications to Record Offices and the Home Office. Of this circular the following paragraph alone is of interest to our readers to whom it will serve as a reminder of the new status of electors on the Absent Voters' List.

"1.—*Absent Voters : Continuance on List.*

"The Registration Officer will bear in mind that in accordance with the Order in Council of 25th June, 1925, R.P. 130, every absent voter whose name is on the current absent voters' list as the result of a claim made on Form R.P. 27 must be continued on the list for the new register without further claim so long as he continues to follow the same occupation, service or employment and to be registered as a Parliamentary elector for the same qualifying address, unless he gave notice before the 24th February that he does not desire his name to remain on the list.

"This of course does not affect persons serving in His Majesty's Forces who are registered as naval or military voters. The present registrations of these voters will remain undisturbed under the procedure described in previous circulars unless they have made statements of qualification for new addresses and disclaimed their present registrations or have claimed to be registered for actual residence qualifications."

PAMPHLETS RECEIVED—AND RECOMMENDED.

"Coal and Commonsense," Labour's scheme for the future of the Coal Industry, with a specially written joint foreword by Messrs. Herbert Smith and A. J. Cook.

"A Year of Tory Mis-Government," dealing with the Tory Government's record during the first twelve months of its existence.

An advertisement of the above two pamphlets appears elsewhere in this issue.

"Canada's Experiments in Public Ownership," an account of Socialism in practice in the Great Dominion.

"Tory Government's Pitiable Confession of Incapacity," a reprint of Mr. Philip Snowden's caustic criticism of the Government's legislative proposals as embodied in the King's Speech, and a re-statement of Labour's policy.

"Coal and Commonsense."

LABOUR'S SCHEME FOR THE FUTURE OF THE COAL INDUSTRY.

Foreword by Herbert Smith and A. J. Cook.

Part I.—The Future of the Coal and Power Industry—

- (a) From Coal Digging to Coal Treatment.
- (b) The Importance of Electrical Power.
- (c) Abolishing the Smoke Evil.
- (d) New Technical Advances.
- (e) A Nationally-owned Industry.

Part II.—The Labour Plan for Re-organising and Developing the Coal and Power Industry—

- (a) The Case for Public Ownership.
- (b) Production
 - (i.) The Power and Transport Commission.
 - (ii.) The National Coal and Power Production Council.
 - (iii.) Provincial Councils.
 - (iv.) Pit and Works Committee.
 - (v.) Relations between Central and Local Administration.
 - (vi.) The Consumers' Council.
- (vii.) The Determination of Wages and Prices.
- (c) Internal Distribution.
- (d) The Position of Coal Exporters and Internal Distributors.
- (e) Mining Royalties.
- (f) Observations on the Scheme.

Price Twopence. Post free 2½d.

12 copies 1s. 8d. post free.

100 copies 12s. 6d. post free.

LABOUR PUBLICATIONS DEPT.,
33 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1

LOCAL NEWSPAPER MEMS.

The Dover Labour Party began in February the publication of the "Dover Pioneer." The issue before us is a ten-page quarto publication based on standardised pages issued by the Beacon Press, of Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. The Colchester, Saffron Walden, Bedford, Ipswich and Lewes Labour Parties all base their local publications on the standardised pages of this firm by whom excellent Labour stuff is issued in a clear and readable form, edited, we believe, by Ernest Selley, Labour Candidate for Hertford and Capt. L. R. Reiss, Labour Candidate, Colchester. The Dover Labour Party have added an additional two pages to the eight-page sheet supplied, and as the standardised issue is printed four pages only, there are thus no less than six pages of local matter in the first issue to hand. The divisional notes by the Agent, Mr. Sidney Dye, are very interesting, and we are glad to see that the literature stall also has a place, and that there is a tendency to make the local matter varied and interesting. At the same time, we think that greater attention might be paid to the general make-up and arrangement of pages. Its two sources of inspiration are at present rather apparent. Address, "Dover Pioneer," 6, St. Martin's Place, Dover.

We are glad to note that the "Labour Monthly" the revived organ of the Ilkeston Divisional Labour Party, which we reviewed in our issue of December, 1924, still makes progress. The issue before us contains a cartoon series of the now popular type by Alex Hervey, and this adds interest and attractiveness to the paper. The Ilkeston "Labour Monthly" naturally gives prominence to its M.P.'s Parliamentary Review, and "Labour in Parliament." We are glad to see, however, a column is also devoted to "Socialism in Being," or in other words to Municipal enterprise, thus encouraging the policy of further conquest in Local Government elections. There is now a guaranteed issue of 10,000 copies per month for the "Labour Monthly." Address, The Ilkeston Divisional Labour Monthly, 1, George Street, Ripley, Derbyshire.

The Wellingborough Divisional Labour Party began in February the

publication of a forcible local journal which has been christened "The Challenge." There is a guaranteed circulation of 10,000 copies, and the paper is the Party's reply to the anti-Labour bloc of the Capitalist press in this Division. The issue before us is clearly printed and contains a fair share of advertisements. It is full of good propaganda matter. We are glad to note that of the six pages three full columns are devoted to reports from the local Parties, and a number of districts have taken advantage of this excellent feature to send in reports. If there is one suggestion we would make concerning the get-up of the paper it is that some space should be devoted to sugaring the pill for those who are not Labour voters. A page of general interest might help to get the paper read in homes to which it is distributed, but where as yet there is no Labour sympathy.

We note that "The Challenge" is distributed through the local Labour Parties, who are to provide the machinery for doing this at their own cost, though a special central fund has been opened presumably for the purpose of equalising the burden. It is very obvious from the whole paper that a healthy Movement is in being in the Wellingborough Division. "The Challenge," 89, Park Street, Irthlingborough, Northants.

Under the energetic leadership of its new candidate, Mr. Frank G. Lloyd, the Kidderminster Division is waking up. A duplicated News Sheet is to be issued of which the first number is entitled "The Advance." A prize is offered to those who can suggest a suitable name for future issues, though it would seem to us that the prize should go to those who have found the present title! Another duplicated sheet comes from East Surrey, where the "Surrey Citizen," no more than one quarto duplicated list of announcements, has been issued. A third humble beginning for a Labour newspaper is mentioned in "Out of the Rut," and hails from Weston-super-Mare. We have sympathy with these humble beginnings, which do not lack in the courageous nature of their challenge to the Capitalist press monopolies in the areas in which they are issued.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF LABOUR WOMEN.

The first agenda has just been issued. It is expected that about 1,000 delegates will attend from Women's Sections, Labour Parties, Trade Unions and Co-operative Organisations. The agenda shows that already Labour women have found great dissatisfaction from the new scheme for Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Pensions. Nearly two pages of resolutions express their indignation at education economy, and international affairs are the subject of nearly twenty resolutions. The Trades Union Congress General Council have down a resolution on their campaign to make women trade unionists, and a very large number of resolutions deal with Unemployment Insurance. There are altogether 201 resolutions covering almost every conceivable subject of Labour policy.

The speakers at the Women's Demonstration to be held on the evening of May 12th will be the Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson, M.P., Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., Mr. J. H. Hudson, M.P., and Dr. Marion Phillips.

Proportional Representation

Its Dangers and
Its Defects

6/-

By George Horwill,
(B.Sc. Econ.)

"Here is a case which the advocates of P.R. cannot afford to ignore."
—*Labour Magazine*.

"It is an almost unqualified attack on the whole system, and it is boldly provocative. . . . He argues with considerable force and ingenuity."
—*Daily News*.

GEORGE ALLEN AND
UNWIN, LTD.

40 Museum St., London,
W.C.1.

WRITTEN BY REQUEST.

(At the request of several old readers the Editor has again consented to write occasionally of the open road—and other things. Here is the first article, and readers who like it may order early back numbers of the "L.O." and read others.)

BY THE EDITOR.

Sunday: and as I write a setting March sun, saddest of all sunsets, drops lower in the valley. Perhaps because I was born an optimist I have never cared for dying suns. I am a child of the animate, and I and sunset go different ways—the one to die, I to live, and, I hope, do.

Poets may sing their paeon of sunset, artists may (try to) catch on canvas that sky-wracked picture of fading glory, but to me the spangled wreckage of the western sky, brings a heartache. At sunset the world seems big. I so little; so little done.

To-night the dying sun called. I turned my back; and wrote you this:

ROAD MEMORIES.

To-morrow there is one heart in England that will sing a song. That heart is mine.

When God made the valleys and the hills, and the rivers, and the darksome deep, He left out one essential thing. He forgot the roads!

And roads have been a long time coming. It is 50,000 to 200,000 years (as you like it) since Neanderthal man (successor to the sub-man), came through the trackless wastes to water-ides and made the first human byway. After that the world changed, the ice crept down, and man and footpaths lay forgotten underneath.

The world was much as we know it when the last ice disappeared, except for roads. But as those fierce early forefathers of ours from the Hun lands beyond the North Sea came cautiously treading their way amid the new verdure of a resurrected land we may be sure they followed carefully in the tracks their leader made.

Thus roads began again; to-day's roads. And to-morrow for sixty miles I shall toot-toot and pip-pip down a broad and smooth valley track that is the lineal descendant, I am sure, of the far-off stone man's tracks as he traced the swift river to its broad and sandy mouth.

I love roads. I hate sunsets. To-morrow as the sun rises, I shall swish through the open gate and take to the open road. And I shall remember as I ride, he of strange and hairy visage,

my farthest forefather, peeping and peering through the treacherous growths as he sought the beaten track. I, modern man, 1926-edly mounted, follow the same road. Maybe our souls acknowledge. He is not dead. Sunsets die: we go on!

To-morrow the new sun will rise to time. It will shine brightly as it rises. I know because I am an optimist! And this new sun, this hope sun, this vigour sun, this work sun, this grand sun, will shine and light up a long, long range of rugged hills that were ridged up in the birth pangs of our modern world. Malvern Hills are granite, but deep below the mountain mass lies a secret of a world gone by. Below the Malverns there is *marl*. The Malverns then are just giants with feet of clay; upthrusts and boilings over of a devil's cauldron in the days before roads.

There is one sunset that fascinates me. Picture yourself on a flat and open common, with a 1,000 feet ridge rising sheerly to the west; the height may not be much in mountain, but the flat plain and contrast are there, and I love to see that sun drop down behind, and the gloom of darkness be defeated as long rows of lights appear dotting the hillside till it looks like a starry sky from miles away upon the plain. Those lights are friendly lights, and many a time in the eerie hours of night they have called me to a halt, while I paused to worship in the night—the life that lives!

To-morrow the sun will shine on my eastern side, and the hills will lie on my right. It is just this arrangement of the immutable things that will suit me best, to-morrow. And if you too will see and enjoy the greatness and beauties of nature to the best advantage, it is worth while putting the sun and the object to be viewed in proper alignment. The right way, for instance, to view the sea from Southport (where there isn't any) is to get up in the morning and do a discourtesy to the early sun. Fancy trying to look westward over the glassy coffin of an expiring scorcher in July!

And so to-morrow I shall spy into the innards of Malvern Hills, its cracks and excoriations. I shall see something

that is not nature's work. I don't mean the hideous quarries but the earthworks of ancient man.

Which reminds me of Romans. Romans are my pet aversion—amongst others. They made roads, good roads and straight roads, and for that I incline to mercy. But *they were slave roads!* There is blood on our Roman roads. I know not whence come the slaves who toiled, and were lashed, died, and perhaps, buried, to make our Fosse Way, Watling Street, and others; Phoenicians maybe; the flotsam of Carthage; captured raiders from the Gauls; or rebels from Spain. Heaven knows, but this *we* know, and old Boadicea knew, that Rome was cruel, relentless, unhuman, impersonal, and hellish in its crimes.

I never ride a Roman road but I think of the Appian Way. There they crucified 6,000 of the underdogs who fought with Spartacus. Where *we* plant trees, *they* planted crosses, and dying rebels left to die. That memory will curse the Romans and their roads down through history—if rebels remember, as I set it down here for *you* to do.

Tewkesbury, Roman founded, with true military prescience at the confluence of two rivers, greater then than now. Gloucester—ah, Gloucester, pleasant enough city, but founded by the Romans.

And Romans there are in Gloucester to-day or were a generation ago. Let a lad go to a Gloucester high school in poverty, patched clothes, or someone else's trousers; what he gets will be such to rankle not alone in a lad's mind, but to pursue him into manhood, and haunt him through the world. There is no jeer that cuts like scorn from the rich. You may beat them to a frazzle in the class-room, take their scholarships, win their prizes, but to be poor, or hungry, is to incite the pack. To be poor in church-ridden Gloucester is to be whipped with scorpions. And to be poor, and in its high schools, is to be crucified on the Appian Way.

But to-morrow there is one heart in England that will sing a song. That heart will be mine—though the iron sticks.

Road raids are not yet road memories, and roads are good so far. And the free air of the broad plain twixt the Cotswolds, the Malverns and the outlyers of the Welsh system, is a grand and exceptional thing. Life-giving ozone comes

blowing in from the Bristol Channel on the winds that convoy the last waters of the Gulf stream.

The fertile Severn valley aeons ago formed a natural bed for the grand glaciers that fertilised by precipitation the land they flowed over. And the Severn, in its turn, and in its age-long task of conveying Wales to the sea, has also enriched the valley lands. Thus it is that the winds from the far Indies, breathing a breath of life over the land, discover a richer greenness and a land fruitfulness that man has never yet fully exploited. And to-morrow the buds are bursting. The buds! To-morrow!

Thirty-four miles from Gloucester Cross to Bristol, runs the road, straight, tarred, Ministry-width, and well-used. But not always so. I have walked it every inch, and I know. In that day I was seeking a fortune I never found with 1s. 4d. to grease the road. But nineteen has hopes. At any rate, I did—plus a wife in the city behind me, and the task in front of finding a home and fortune for two.

Yes, I remember to-morrow's road. It was a lonely one, no motors, a few cushion-tyred bikes, few carts and never a lift. There were stones, too, and February mud, which came in at my boots.

But to-morrow I shall prance over that road. In the long ago, while Britain was in the making, other and nobler boys came down that road. They hied for Bristol and the sea. For Bristol and Westward Ho! Four hundred years have gone since the first boy stepped it en route to the New World. Yet I imagine he was living when I stepped it too? *We* live. Only sunsets die!

But *kings* die. I remember yet the first time I read that horrid story of Berkeley Castle (14 miles ex Gloucester) and of the night-long agonies there of King Edward II. Murder seemed that day to come very near to me, and the repulsion with which the tale filled me, taken with its traditional embellishments, holds me still.

However, to-morrow, my heart must sing a song, though to-night's sunset was probably very like that which the second Edward last looked upon. Sunsets and death are both unnerving. We'll take to the road.

A night ride! Ay, I have travelled this road before. Rise, ye be-cushioned

train-riders, Rouse ye sleepy corridors, Avaunt, ye tired travellers, with cold feet in colder stations, awaiting the train which carries while the dreamy night drags on! I tell of life—living, rushing, life borne on the wings of night. I tell of the wind, the loud, swift, tearing wind, on which is borne the voice of angels, guiding, sustaining, warning, soothing. I tell of the Great Passion, to be alone on the night road, alone with the stars above and the swirling current around, and the good engine purring faithfully beneath. I tell, nay, I cannot tell, of the thoughts that fill one as the world goes madly by and the right gods seize the wheel, and grip my soul, prevailing; over everything, roads, towns, distance, even me.

Was it not the Bounder who died in the night? whom the road took for its own in the long last? They found him and his machine, but the end no man knew. The night knew. He checked in with the night wind still fresh in his face, and the winds blew on with yet another spirit in their keeping. For the night winds bear spirits on their bosoms; and they talk, and cheer, kiss and begone. But, anyway, I would like to die like that. One clear call. In the night winds I still could "carry on."

Oh, ye tenderfeet, of the town and train. I often think of you after the meeting, and what you miss. You dream of Liberty, but on the open common, the soul swells and sings a song. True, there is a boundary somewhere, but the horizon is far away and mists hide it. Here we are free.

And in the woodland avenues? How the trees guard one, as they overhang the road; the wind voices take a different key, and almost whisper a friendly suggestion of shelter.

Alone? We are not alone. Life is abundant in the night. Our headlamps, on a long night ride, catch the green eyes of countless inhabitants of the hedgerows and roadside. In the night man resigns his mastership and gives over to the "lower" world, who abound.

Alone? Stand some night on the hillside, with engine stopped, when the crackle of cooling metal has ceased, and listen. There is no silence, but there is a world at work. Love-making, butchering and play, house-hunting, home-building, emigrations and travel, these things go on at night in the lower world as they go on in ours in daylight. Sometimes there is a human cry. But

it is always one of pain; and the cry of human kind is the one night cry I fain would never hear.

* * * *

To-morrow one heart in England will sing a song. To-night I must say to that heart: Patience! *I didn't like the sunset.*

But for to-morrow—the high sun, and the high road! Memories be damned! The flight of gods and the voice of angels shall combine to make one heart rejoice, as I speed and pip-pip down the ancient road that wild men travelled in the long ago.

Just Published. 24 Pages of Shot & Shell.

A YEAR OF TORY MISGOVERNMENT.

Mr. Baldwin's Efforts to make
THE RICH RICHER and

THE POOR POORER.

"Every day and in every way, as the price of the Government's class interests and ineptitude, the workers have to suffer." The Tory

Government's record for its first year:—
Increased unemployment. Greater destitution. Lower wages. Higher food prices. Trade falling away. Robbery of the workers. Deceiving the aged and the widows. Churchill's muddled finance. Lighter taxation for the rich and heavier burdens for the poor. "Protection" pledges broken. Mr. Baldwin doesn't "Buy British Goods." More money for armaments. One law for the rich—another for the poor. Nothing done for agriculture. "Economising" at the expense of the children. The coal muddle that cost millions. And Tory indifference to the workers' interests.

AMMUNITION FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST REACTION.

Price 3d., post free 3½d.

12 copies 2s 3d. post free.

100 copies 17s. 6d. post free

Published by
THE LABOUR PARTY,
33 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1

Next Month!

"EGERTON WAKE:
ORGANISER OF
VICTORY"

by
HERBERT TRACEY

Special to the "L.O."

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Correspondents are required to give their full name and address, not, however, necessarily for publication. Replies from general correspondents cannot be given through the post. It is imperative that where a reply depends on a statement of fact (such, for instance, as qualification of an elector to be on the register), the fullest information should be given.

Question.—There seems some doubt as to whether we can secure an extension of hours to 9 p.m. for our District Council Elections. Will you please advise us as to what is the rule on the subject and whether there is any difference between Parliamentary and Local Elections. If so what advice do you give?

Answer.—The hours of polling in District Council Elections are not definitely laid down by an Act of Parliament or rules thereunder in the same way as are the hours for Parliamentary Elections.

We advise our questioner to at once seek information as to what Order has been made in his county by the County Council respecting the hours of polling; for to the County Council is delegated the duty of fixing the hour of polling by general or special order. A wide discretion is given in the matter "so however that the poll shall always be open between the hour of six and eight in the evening." It is conceivable that an order exists extending the poll to 9 p.m., but such order is very unlikely. Assuming no order has been made by the County Council the matter is governed by custom and the hours will be the same as those at the last ordinary election of Urban Councils or Guardians.

In the case of Parliamentary Elections the hours are governed by 48 and 49 Vic. c. 10 and 3 and 4 George V. c. 6.

The first-named Act enacts as follows:—

"At every Parliamentary Election . . . the poll (if any) shall commence at eight o'clock in the forenoon, and be kept open till eight o'clock in the afternoon of the same day and no longer."

The second-named Act enacts as follows:—

"Where any candidate at a Parliamentary election or a candidate's

agent on his behalf gives notice in writing to the returning officer during the nomination time or within one hour afterwards that he wishes the poll at that election—

- (a) to commence at seven o'clock in the forenoon, or
- (b) to be kept open till nine o'clock in the afternoon, or
- (c) to commence at seven o'clock in the forenoon and be kept open till nine o'clock in the afternoon,

the Elections (Hours of Poll) Act, 1885, shall, in relation to that election, be construed as if the hour specified in any such notice, whether as respect the commencement or close of the poll, were substituted for eight o'clock in the forenoon or eight o'clock in the afternoon, as the case may be, being the hours specified in that Act for the commencement and close of the poll respectively."

As indicating the difficulties which the seeker after information has to encounter it may interest our questioner to know that the very latest book on the law of Parliamentary Elections, written by a very learned authority, actually ignores altogether the existence of The Extension of Polling Hours Act, 1913 (3 and 4 George V. c. 6) and the learned author is evidently unaware of it when publishing his book so recently as 1922.

Our friend in asking us to lay down advice regarding securing an extension of hours in Parliamentary Elections is really asking us to lay down general principles on matters that can only be decided upon by the special facts of each case. We do not think it is possible to lay down a general rule of conduct for election agents in Parliamentary Elections, nor we do not subscribe to the doctrine that the Labour candidate should in all cases endeavour to secure the longest possible hours of polling.

It would take a good deal of persuasion to convince us that the hours of 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. were actually necessary in a large number of constituencies. There are certainly cases where these hours are a distinct convenience, and there are a far larger number of instances where the extension of the hours to 9 p.m. is a necessary step. But in all applications for these hours one has to bear in mind not only the opportunities for voting, but the possibilities of manning the machine, and last, though perhaps not least, the strain of the long

hours imposed on the official staff, which surely is a matter that Labour people should take cognizance of.

The election agent will take many factors into consideration in deciding upon his course, and it may well be that he finds himself in a dilemma owing to the extension of hours being helpful in one part of a division and risky in another. This is particularly the case in county divisions comprised of one or two compact urban areas and an added rural area.

Generally speaking, an extension of hours in scattered rural areas, particularly in winter time, is undesirable. We believe, too, that it affords opportunities to dishonest officials that are sometimes taken advantage of. In rural areas, few, if any, additional votes are to be gained by the evening extension, and it is not always comforting to reflect upon the ballot books and boxes being left in the uncontrolled charge of a couple of opponents.

Question.—At the last election a number of our supporters presented themselves at the polling booth actually before the clock had ceased striking 9 p.m. They were turned away and perhaps you will tell us whether or no the officials were right in doing this?

Answer.—Our answer in this matter and on the facts stated is that the officials acted within the law and not even within their discretion, for of the latter they had none. The precise time for the close of the poll is the first stroke of the clock by Greenwich time, whether 8 o'clock or 9 o'clock. The supply of ballot papers must cease at that hour and no voters may be admitted after that hour. No ballot papers may be given out after the hour, though it has been laid down that ballot papers that have been applied for and received by the voter may be accepted immediately after the hour.

In supplementing this answer we might add that votes in which ballot papers were supplied after the hour will be struck out on scrutiny. The poll must not be closed *earlier* than the statutory time, but once it is closed it cannot be reopened. We are afraid that unless it could be shown that sufficient people were deprived of votes by a too previous closing of the poll to materially affect *the result* of the election, no remedy lies for the fault of the presiding officer.

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SOME REPORTS AND BALANCE SHEETS.

The Skipton Labour Party (affiliated to the Divisional Labour Party) send us this year a most creditable balance sheet for a Party founded in a small town. We note that the individual membership stands at 310 and that members pay sixpence per month. No less than £78 13s. has been collected in members' subscriptions during the year ended December 31st, out of a total income of about nearly £120. The expenditure indicates a varied list of activities and reflects the existence of a Party alive to all its opportunities, spending money wisely and to advantage. Indeed, we think the items of expenditure alone may be quoted as an example to others and an indication of how things may be done. So here we are (note the substantial contribution to divisional funds).

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
E. D. Morel's Mem. Fund		10	0
Labour Research Dept.	1	0	0
Rents for Rooms	13	8	0
D.L.P. Organisation Fund	54	0	0
D.L.P. Affiliation Fees	8	19	9
Printing and Duplicating	3	5	3
Stationery	1	0	6
Membership Cards	1	13	6
Advertising Meetings	5	19	2
Billposting		8	0
Lecture Fees & Expenses	4	14	0
West Bradford Lecture Sc.	3	17	0
Delegation Fees and Exs.		9	6
Labour Choral Union Grant	1	0	0
Literature		16	8
Town Hall, Hire, Mar. 1926	3	3	0
Election Sinking Fund	5	7	10
All-In Bye-Election Fund	2	0	0
Women's Advisory Council Conference	1	0	0
Women's Advisory Council Affiliation Fees	1	5	0
Voters' Lists	10	1	
Local Council Election Exs.	10	13	0
Rent, Notice Board		19	0
Fabian Society		5	0
Clarion Van Expenses	1	3	0
Bank Commission		1	6
Newspapers to Candidate		16	8
Postage, Poundage, Carriage and Telegrams	2	4	2½
Balance carried forward to 1926	15	18	3
	£146	8	4½

The Gravesend half-yearly report dated January 1st, shows continued progress. Membership at that date was 1,367. Affiliated membership was only 2,600 and this sidelight indicates that Gravesend is not some easy trades union centre, but that special virtue attends the progress that has been made. The half-yearly financial statement shows that £76 17s. 10d. was received from members' subscriptions, while no less than £254 was received in social events out of which apparently some costs of £132 must be taken. We note that the Party's contributions are taken mostly in weekly contributions and that all the officials in Gravesend are supplied regularly each month with a copy of the "Labour Organiser."

We gather from the annual report of the Reading Trades Council and Labour Party that the ward organisations are in a very healthy condition and that there has been a large increase of membership, especially of women. The annual bazaar resulted in a financial gain to the Party of some £400, and an additional asset was the number of women who were brought into the Women's Sections through contact at Bazaar Committees. The new local Labour paper the Reading "Citizen," is noted elsewhere in this issue. It is cheering to note that the Junior Association has attained a very large membership and that its activities embrace a rambling section, a cycling section and swimming club, and that last autumn no less than four football teams were formed and all of them did well. The Junior Labour Dramatic Society also has upwards of thirty members. Among other activities the Reading Labour Party has a Labour Choral Society and a Book Club. The Party income for the past year reached the respectable total of £1,861, of which donations and subscriptions amount to £169 9s. 6½d. The local agent and secretary is Mr. A. Lockwood, 56, Minster Street, Reading.

The annual report of the Bootle and District Trades Council and Labour Party speaks of local difficulties to which Parties are not strangers in other parts of the country, though we are glad to see that the Party has gained in strength and unity from the lessons of the past. A

*stamp scheme for the Parliamentary fund has been inaugurated and has yielded a nett sum of £35 6s. 8½d.—an excellent beginning for the first nine months' work.

The secretary's annual report to the City of Leeds Labour Party of necessity contains much reference to the work of Labour's elected persons and the civic problems which confront them. The Party has now attained a municipal vote of 40,000, and achieved a further nett gain of three seats on the City Council last November. We are glad to note the attention given in this report to women's organisations, and the number of women's activities that are enumerated. Individual women membership in the City has now reached approximately 1,000, and an increase of four Women's Sections is recorded for the year. Young peoples' activities are not being lost sight of and special efforts are being put forward to secure a large individual membership.

Comparisons are odious, but we believe that the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Federation present in their annual report a better record of practical work and real organisation than any report we have seen of a similar Federation. A panel of eighty speakers has been printed and circulated, motor car tours arranged in several divisions, and to inaccessible villages, much supplementary propaganda work has been done, help given in the organisation of women, a report on rural housing published, appointments to the Magisterial Bench promoted, and a series of other minor activities undertaken. Major D. Leigh Aman has reason to be proud of the Federation of which he has been the life and soul. There are thirty-one affiliated organisations.

The annual report of the Newport Labour Party is always interesting, but rather less so because the energies of the Party have resulted in the establishment of prosperous Labour halls whose flourishing finances and reports do *not* form part of the Party's statement of affairs. We do not quite gather from the accounts whether the publication of "The Searchlight," the Party's Labour paper, has been suspended, but there is a paragraph which hints at it. Yet in the accounts no less than £207 is shown as revenue from sales and £262 from

advertisements. Surely a magnificent effort and one the visible outcome of which ought not to be allowed to disappear. Much good work is being done at Newport.

The Wellingborough Divisional Labour Party present a lengthy statement of accounts in considerable detail. The first thing which strikes us about it is the extent to which local parties and branches are sharing in Party responsibilities. We like to see this detail about local Parties and trades union branches, given place in the balance sheet; for it is an encouragement to local units and a recognition of their efforts. The Party's new venture "The Challenge," is referred to in another part of this issue. We note that a Cycle Club for propaganda visits to the villages has been formed.

From the report of the Hendon Divisional Labour Party we note that affiliation fees have been paid to the National Labour Party on 540 members—which is some guarantee of the genuineness of the work put in. The Party has decided to operate the Barrow scheme for the organisation of individual membership and altogether the report shows a determination to conquer difficulties in this none too easy area.

In the twenty-third annual report of the Coventry Labour Party, we read that—"Under the new Rules and Constitution adopted at the last annual meeting the basis of contributions to this section was changed from 1s. minimum per annum to 1d. per week. In order to carry through the collection of subscriptions in a systematic manner the whole Individual Members' Section was reorganised and Ward Committees were given control of membership in their own areas, and a percentage of funds collected allocated to them. The scheme was taken up with enthusiasm in July, and the membership has steadily grown to 1,400. Eleven wards have embraced the scheme. Every Ward Committee has now a source of income of its own. Your E.C. is convinced that a membership of 5,000 is a very low potential having regard to the Labour vote in the constituency. . . . As a result of the success of the I.M.S. Scheme the publication of the 'Coventry Labour Monthly' was made possible.

An Editorial and Management Committee has now been set up." In the current year's accounts we note that individual membership income reached in round figures the sum of £100, while the total local income was nearly £800. Both the balance sheet and the report are worthy documents.

We have received a number of other balance sheets, some of which we hope to mention at a later date. Unfortunately in the case of one or two documents sent to us without heading, we are unable to identify the Party to which they refer.

LAW AND PRACTICE

[Under this heading are found brief and chatty explanations of points of commoner interest concerning the Law and Practice of Elections. Readers are invited to suggest points for notice herein, but are reminded that suggestions made may not necessarily be dealt with in the next issue.—Ed.]

WHAT IS "SUCCESSIVE OCCUPATION" ?

There is very little doubt that owing to migrations of labour and lack of interest and knowledge on the part of voters the Labour Party loses very many votes which could be claimed as "successive."

The Representation of the People Act, 1918, made a particularly liberal change in regard to the enfranchisement of persons removing from one residence to another, and notwithstanding that the law, even now, is not everything to be desired, there is a huge freedom of residence and removal quite consonant with remaining on a register of voters the whole of the time.

By section I. of the R.P. Act, it is enacted that as a part of his qualification a man—

- (a) "must on the last day of the qualifying period be residing in premises in the constituency, or occupying business premises in the constituency, as the case may be; and
- (b) must during the whole of the qualifying period have resided in premises, or occupied business premises, as the case may be, in the constituency, or in another constituency within the same parliamentary borough or parliamentary county contiguous to that borough

or county, or separated from that borough or county by water, not exceeding at the nearest point six miles in breadth, measured in the case of tidal water from low-water mark.

For the purposes of this subsection the administrative county of London shall be treated as a parliamentary borough."

There is a limitation of the above provision applying to persons who remove into a constituency within thirty days of the end of the qualifying period and cease to reside therein within thirty days. But we will not concern ourselves on this occasion with this limitation, which was merely the result of a fear, on the part of Parliament, of faggot voters being created.

Now in the first place it will be noted that it is not at all necessary that a man shall have resided or occupied the *same* premises in any constituency. He may move as often as he likes provided that his residence is continuous in a constituency or his occupation of business premises is continuous as the case may be. It is his *total* residence or occupation in a constituency which qualifies him, or is carried forward, as a qualifying asset, so to speak, into another constituency.

But the real difficulties begin when we seek to unravel the meaning of Clause B. We will endeavour to make the matter as simple as possible by a comprehensive series of statements.

A person may properly claim a vote in either of the following circumstances: or vice-versa, in each case:—

- (1) If the residence or occupation has been in any adjoining constituency.
- (2) If the residence or occupation has been in any division of an adjoining county, notwithstanding that the divisions themselves do not adjoin,
- (3) If the residence or occupation has been in any division of an adjoining divided borough, notwithstanding that the divisions may not themselves adjoin.
- (4) If the residence or occupation in the case of London has been in any part or Division in London or in any Borough or Divided Borough adjoining the county of London or in any county division of a county adjoining London.

There are two or three other conditions to be borne in mind, thus

"county" means the Parliamentary county, and not geographical county. Equally the county of London means the administrative county of London.

Where constituencies, boroughs or counties do not actually adjoin but are separated by water as laid down above, this has the same effect as if there was actual land contiguity.

Now let us give a few concrete illustrations and we will take the county of Lancashire as an example.

A person removing anywhere within the divided boroughs of Liverpool or Manchester remains qualified however many divisions the total period may embrace. A person may remove out of Manchester or Liverpool or out of any Lancashire borough into a county Division (into *any* county division) and remain qualified. But a person is disqualified if changing from one borough to another unless those boroughs are in actual contact.

Thus a person may remove from Liverpool to Bootle or Manchester to Salford and remain qualified, or from Manchester to Lancaster and remain qualified, but a removal from Manchester to Rochdale would *disqualify*.

In the case of every borough in Lancashire, a person is qualified removing in from anyone of the county divisions, and this of course covers the commonest case. Our readers may for themselves by looking at the map, work out how the law applies in respect to all the adjoining counties and boroughs which *adjoin* Lancashire.

Some interesting anomalies present themselves, but there is no room for them here, and we trust we have said enough to make the position a little clearer.

But there is one final instance which presents itself. Thus a person removing from the county borough of Blackpool to the county borough of Southport, or vice versa, would at first sight fall under the same rule as that quoted for a person removing from Manchester to Rochdale. But it will be noticed that from the southern end of the Blackpool division to the northern end of Southport there is a distance of *less* than six miles at low water. Hence these two boroughs profit by the water rule.

AN UNDESIRABLE PRINCIPLE.

A claim recently heard at the Worcester Revision Court was an excellent example of one that ought not to have been brought.

The claimant Victorio Tazzalio and his wife applied for both Parliamentary and Local Government votes and their claims were supported by Mr. R. B. Fairbairn, ex-M.P., the Liberal Agent, who frankly admitted that neither claimant was a British subject and that they were therefore not entitled to the franchise. Mr. Fairbairn made the claim on "sympathetic and sentimental grounds"—surely a novel ground to urge in an English Court of Law (!) and the Liberal Agent was extremely angry with his Tory opponent who he alleged had at the previous Court also made a claim on similar grounds, though he objected on this occasion. In that case (reported in our issue of September, 1925) the vote was disallowed and in this case also both votes were disallowed. There was a somewhat suggestive threat by Mr. Fairbairn that the legal position of others who were on the register would have to be taken into consideration in consequence of the decision—from which we gather that arrangements between the Party agents to admit votes that are not well grounded have in the past resulted in disqualified persons being placed upon the register. This is no new position but it is one which *Labour* agents ought not to acquiesce in.

Our own recollections go back many years to fighting our first case in the Revision Court against a famous Tory agent, when our own grounds in a "latchkey" case were largely sentimental. We failed, and probably many Labour Agents and Secretaries since have promoted cases not so much on their legal basis as on their sentimental merits. While this may be good as propaganda our riper judgment is that any arrangement to get cases on the register by mutual blindness to obvious disqualification amounts to a conspiracy to defeat the law. Regarding the injustices of the franchise resentment and alteration will be made more difficult by arrangements here and there. Further, from what we know of the existing condition of the register, in most places Labour has most to gain by a just administration of the present law.

CO-OPERATION IN EXCELSIS.

A RECORD OF SPLENDID CO-OPERATION BY THE ROYAL ARSENAL
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

Our readers in all parts of the country will be interested in the following account of the objects and working of the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society's Political Purposes Committee as disclosed in a report just issued. The details which are given disclose a record of real political co-operation unparalleled, at any rate as to scale, and they afford an emphatic encouragement to those seeking, in other places, to obtain a good working companionship between the Labour Party and the Co-operative Movement. The Secretary of the Committee is Mr. F. B. Cooper, of 147 Powis Street, Woolwich, to whom we are indebted for the particulars given.

In March, 1920, the members of The Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society adopted a resolution to the effect that a Special Committee be set up to consider the question of the Society's entry into the "political life of the community." Such a Committee was constituted in September of the same year, and in May 1921, the members approved of alterations to the Society's rules to provide for the allocation of a grant for political objects equal to 3d. per member per half-year, 1d. of which was to be devoted to the payment of affiliation fees to the local Labour Parties in the Society's area, in accordance with the co-operative membership in each district, and the remaining 2s. to the "financing of political aims and interests not otherwise provided for."

The first election of the Political Purposes Committee took place in March, 1922, and the first funds became available in that month. The Committee's income since that date amounted to a total of £9,887 14s. od., being £3,295 18s. od. on account of Part I. (Affiliation Fees) and £6,591 16s. od. in Part II. (General).

Particulars of the scheme of grants, which was instituted in 1923, are given below. Since the last payment in September, 1925, however, certain provisional modifications have been decided upon. Details are also given below.

£500 is set aside every half-year and allocated in grants in the following manner:—

(a) £250 to the Divisional Labour

Parties in the Society's area, in proportion to co-operative membership in each area. In some cases, where there are no figures on which to base a calculation as to the membership in a division, an arrangement has been effected whereby the borough party is taken as the unit, and an agreed allocation made amongst the divisional parties in the borough.

(b) £125 in respect to the appointment of full-time party agents or secretaries, divided equally amongst all the divisional parties in the area. If a party has not made a full-time appointment the money is held in reserve, and the arrears (dating from September, 1925) are paid when the appointment is made. The Committee has power under the scheme to pay the grant at its discretion in respect to part-time appointments, where the principle of payment for services has been adopted by the party.

(c) £125 for increases shown from year to year in the individual membership of the party. The statistics on which the grant is paid are obtained yearly in March from the London Labour Party or (in the case of the extra-Metropolitan boroughs or divisions) from the National Labour Party, the increased affiliation fee paid to the London or National Party being assumed to reveal the increased membership. The grant to each party is *pro rata* to its share of the total increase throughout the Society's area. A condition of the grant is that the Committee shall have the power to inspect the books of the party receiving the grant, on notice duly given. See also important provisos in the following paragraph.

An additional sum of £150 per half-year is to be allocated to the scheme during 1926 to absorb some of the money available by reason of the discontinuance of the special election grants. This sum is to be divided equally amongst the three parts of the half-yearly grant, and the amounts to be paid during 1926 will therefore be as follows:—

(a) For Co-operative Membership in area	£	300
(b) For Appointment of Full-time Agent	£	175
(c) For Increase in Individual Membership of Party	£	175

All the first part of the grant was, of course, disposed of in affiliation fees, and the larger payments which have been made under the second part, up to January, 1926, may be mentioned :—

	£	s.	d.
Election Grants—			
Parliamentary	2,139	0	0
Borough Council	762	13	9
Guardians	100	0	0
Urban District Council	30	10	0
Half-yearly grants under Scheme	2,271	0	0
London Labour Party affiliation	600	0	0

The Committee's present half-yearly income is about £1,400, of which one-third is ear-marked for affiliation fees. £500 is set aside for the purposes of the Committee's scheme of grants, and from the remainder administrative expenses have to be provided, and the affiliation fee to the London Labour Party.

The available balance has so far been used for special grants in connection with elections, and the following table gives a summary of the half-yearly payments up to January, 1926 :—

Affiliation Fees	£	470
Grants under Committee's Scheme	500	
Affiliation Fee, London Labour Party	100	
Administrative Expenses	75	
Available for Special Election Grants, etc.	255	
	£1,400	

It has been the policy of the Committee throughout to administer the fund in such a way that the greatest effectiveness should be given to the organisation of the Labour Parties in the Society's area, and the Committee's conviction has grown that *the Society's money can be spent most advantageously in between elections, in building up the organisation, rather than by contributions to special election funds at election times.*

It has therefore recently decided to increase the regular half-yearly grants and discontinue the practice of making grants when elections take place, and to increase the affiliation fee to the London Labour Party by £25 per half-year.

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The Committee wishes it to be understood that this is only a temporary increase, and its continuance cannot be guaranteed. It is possible that other developments under consideration will necessitate the withdrawal of this additional grant at the end of the present year.

In connection with the additional grant for increases shown in the individual membership of parties, the Committee attaches considerable importance to the efforts made by the parties to strengthen their individual membership. It is believed that the individual membership roll is the true index of a party's strength, and the object of the grant is to act as an incentive to the Labour organisations to make a bold attempt to develop in this direction.

The Committee, in making future grants, will therefore take into consideration, not only the increased affiliation fees paid by the parties to the London or National Labour Party, but the figures shown in the audited balance sheets of the divisional parties, and will require the parties to furnish their annual reports containing such figures. If the Committee is not satisfied that an organised attempt is being made to increase individual membership, the whole or part of the grant may be withheld.

The Society is affiliated to thirteen Labour Parties, comprising twenty-six divisional or local parties, all of which receive some portion of the affiliation fees and grants. On each of these parties the Society is entitled to representation, and is actually represented by five members of the Society on the majority of the party councils or committees.

Every three months the local representatives are called together in conference, for the purpose of discussing problems affecting the Co-operative and Labour organisations and promoting greater unity between the different wings of the movement. In June, 1925, as a development of the ordinary conference, the Committee organised a "Re-union" at "Shornells," Abbey Wood, to which were invited all those serving in the Labour interest in Parliament and on the London County Council, Borough and Urban District Councils and Boards of Guardians, and representing constituencies or municipal divisions in the Society's area, as well as the agents and secretaries of the

Labour Parties in the area.

By virtue of its affiliation, the Society is entitled to nominate when Labour Parties are in need of candidates for Parliament, or for any of the Local Authorities, and invitations have accordingly been issued from time to time to the membership. The following table shows the position for the last elections :-

		Adopted Nominations by accepted. Labour Parties Elected		
London County				
Council	....	3	1	1
Borough Councils		36	29	11
Guardians	....	13	10	4
Parliamentary				
Panel	....	3	Nominations not submitted in respect to last General Election	

The nominees elected are entitled and have been invited to attend the quarterly conferences mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

When the scheme of grants (outlined above) was first adopted the Committee had in mind the possibility of devoting, when funds permitted, a small sum to the establishment of scholarships for the training of secretaries, agents and ward secretaries. Although the Committee has not, up to the present, had a sufficient balance to enable it to proceed further with the suggestion, the matter will be kept in view in connection with future developments of the scheme.

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PUBLICITY FOR POOR LOCAL LABOUR PARTIES.

ARTICLE 2.

BACKING UP THE POSTER.

By WILFRED B. HARGREAVES.

In my last article I showed that it was possible to advertise by poster at little cost. It is possible, too, to push such advertisements home by means of leaflets and circulars, and displays.

Let us stick to Smith's Salts a little longer! Smith gets a wide publicity by his large posters. He backs that up by lavish newspaper advertising. He drives it still further by arranging shop window displays. He goes even further yet. He makes his very package into an advertisement in the home; and to crown his efforts, inside the package he places a neatly worded folder urging the virtues of other preparations vended by him!

Does he rest on his oars then? He does not. He cheapens the price of his article, improves the package, effects economies in his production and distribution costs, and employs the good-will he has obtained for his Salts, to sell something else he deals in or manufactures. Verily, there is much to learn from Smith.

* * *

We cannot imitate Smith's newspaper advertising except, perhaps, at election times. Then we can. Believe me, three half-page local newspaper advertisements, skilfully and neatly drawn up and with plenty of space round them, displayed one at a time with a few days' interval between each, are ten times as effective as half a million cheap leaflets! When, however, an election is in the distance, we must rely on other means than newspaper advertising.

There are such means, and they are within the reach of even the poorest parties. Duplicating paper costs about 1/6 a ream (480 sheets). Offcuts, which are not suitable for typed duplicating, but are perfectly suitable for handwritten duplicating, are very much cheaper.

Three shillings has supplied me with 3,000 offcuts perfectly suitable for handwritten duplicated letters, and provided that they are not used too often, their pulling power is good.

Here let me recommend sealing up our messages in envelopes. Address them, too, if you can. If you cannot, at

least put your communications inside envelopes. Their effectiveness and attention-getting power is greatly enhanced thereby.

I assume that even the poorest party has a duplicator. If it hasn't even that, God help it! But it *can* make one for a cost of 9/- or 10/-, if £5 or thereabouts cannot be raised to buy one. So then, 3,000 offcuts will cost 3/-, 3,000 envelopes will cost 12/- (the ink cost is negligible). For 15/- we can back up our poster effort in 3,000 homes and can do it effectively!

* * *

Again:—

Don't use all your sheet of paper for your message.

Don't be too long in your letter.

Don't send too many leaflets with it.

Don't ask for a subscription in the first letter you send (save that until later, but don't forget it!).

Don't even ask the recipient to join the party in the first letter.

Do:—

Make the letter as persuasive as you can, as informative as you can, and as friendly and cheerful as you can.

Do send a neat leaflet (obtained at very reasonable rates from Eccleston Square) in every enclosure.

Do co-ordinate your letter with your poster.

Do bear in mind that subsequent letters are to be sent.

Do think out every step of the propaganda you are to propagate; and do make sure that your office officials and Movement are adequately advertised therein.

Your candidate, too, can frequently be advertised, but this must be cautiously done. The Editor of this Magazine has from time to time shown what may and may not be done in this connexion.

* * *

You will find that three or four letters (co-ordinated with poster publicity) will have an effect even upon the blasé ones.

You will find, too, that getting members is far easier when preliminary "reason why" letters have been sent.

Again, you will find that your public, social, and business meetings can be given honourable mention in the printed message that you send out. Personally, I would go to the length of announcing by just a few posters, that the general

(continued on page 60).

The Economy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSALS.

PART III.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE.

A.D. 1926.

Substitution
of one regis-
ter a year
for two and
reduction of
qualifying
period.

7 & 8 Geo. 5.
c. 64.

11 & 12

Geo. 5. c. 34.

12 & 13

Geo. 5. c. 12.

Section 9.—(1) One register only of electors shall be made in each year and qualifying period shall be reduced from six months to three months.

(2) For the purpose of giving effect to the foregoing provision, the Representation of the People Acts, 1918 to 1922, shall have effect subject to the following modifications, that is to say :—

(a) All provisions applicable to the autumn register shall apply as respects the yearly register, except that the yearly register shall remain in force until the fifteenth day of October in the next following year, and the provisions as to the preparation of two registers in each year and as to the spring register shall cease to have effect ;

(b) The provisions mentioned in the first column of Part I. of the Third Schedule to this Act shall be amended in the manner shown in the second column of the said Part I. ;

and to such other modifications as may be necessary for the purposes aforesaid.

(3) It shall be lawful for His Majesty by Order in Council to make such adaptations in the provisions of any Act (including any local Act or any Act to confirm a Provisional Order) as may seem to Him necessary to make those provisions conform with the provisions of this Part of this Act.

(4) Nothing in this section shall affect the preparation of the autumn register of nineteen hundred and twenty-six, and that register shall continue in force until the fifteenth day of October, nineteen hundred and twenty-seven.

Amendment
of Ballot
Act, 1872,
as to
division of
register at
polling
station.

35 & 36 Vict.
c. 33.

10.—(1) At any election to which the Ballot Act, 1872, applies the returning officer may direct that the register or the part of the register containing the names of electors allotted to vote at a polling station shall be divided for the purpose of making separate issues of ballot papers to the electors :

Provided that the returning officer before giving any such direction shall be satisfied that if any such division of the register is made the proper conduct of the election will not be prejudiced.

(2) Each part of a polling station at which any such division of the register is used shall be deemed to be a separate polling station for the purpose of the appointment of polling agents by the candidates.

Amendment
as to stamp-
ing of ballot
papers with
official mark.

11.—(1) Notwithstanding anything in the Ballot Act, 1872, the returning officer shall cause the ballot papers to be stamped or printed with the official mark prior to the polling, and so much of that Act as requires each ballot paper to be stamped with the official mark immediately before it is delivered to an elector and as requires the returning officer to provide each polling station with instruments for stamping on ballot papers the official mark, shall cease to have effect.

(2) The provisions of the Ballot Act, 1872, which are set out in the first column of Part II. of the Third Schedule to this Act shall have effect subject to the amendments thereof specified in the second column of that Schedule being amendments consequential on or incidental or supplemental to the provisions contained in subsection (1) of this section.

Polls in
Orkney and
Zetland.

12.—Paragraph (14) of section forty-three of the Representation of the People Act, 1918 (which provides that the poll at any general or bye-election for the constituency of Orkney and Zetland shall remain open for two consecutive days), is hereby repealed.

Short title,
construction,
and extent of
Part III.

13.—(1) This part of this Act may be cited as the Representation of the People (Economy Provisions) Act, 1926, and shall be construed as one with the Representation of the People Acts, 1918 to 1922, and those Acts and this Part of this Act may be cited together as the Representation of the People Acts, 1918 to 1926.

(2) This Part of this Act shall not extend to Northern Ireland.

THIRD SCHEDULE.

PART I.

AMENDMENTS OF THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACTS, 1918 AND 1922.

Col. 1.

Col. 2.

The Representation
of the People Act,
1918 (7 & 8 Geo. 5
c. 64).

Section 6

- The following section shall be substituted :—
“The qualifying period shall be three months ending on the first day of June and including that day :

Provided that in the application of this section to a person who is a naval or military voter, or who has been serving as a member of the naval, military, or air forces of the Crown at any time during the said three months and has ceased so to serve, one month shall be substituted for three months as the qualifying period.”

Section 7

- For the words “for part of the qualifying period not exceeding four months in the whole” there shall be substituted the words “for part of the qualifying period not exceeding two months in the whole, or where the occupation of the person giving the permission commenced more than six months before the first day of June, for not more than four months in the whole during that period of six months.”

Section 43

- For paragraph (18) the following paragraph shall be substituted :—

“(18) Notwithstanding anything in this Act it shall not be necessary as regards any county or any registration unit therein, if the county council of the county so resolve, to show or distinguish in any register other than the register in those years in which county council elections fall to be held the names of persons entitled to vote as local government electors :

Provided that—

(i) a resolution under this paragraph shall not have effect as respects the register in any year unless it is passed before the fifteenth day of May in that year ;

(ii) for all the purposes of the registration of local government electors in any county or registration unit therein to which any such resolution applies, the last preceding

local government register shall remain in force until a new local government register comes into force.

In this paragraph "county" means a county exclusive of any burgh within the meaning of the Town Councils (Scotland) Act, 1900."

The Representation
of the People Act,
1921 (11 & 12
Geo. 5. c. 34).

- Section 1 - After the words "qualifying period" there shall be inserted the words "not exceeding two months at any one time or if the residence commenced more than six months before the first day of June during a part of those six months."

PART II.

AMENDMENTS OF THE BALLOT ACT, 1872.

- Section 2 - The words "at the time of voting" shall be omitted, and after the words "with an official mark and" there shall be inserted the words "at the time of voting shall be," and after the words "can be identified" there shall be inserted the words "or which was not duly issued"
- Section 4 - At the end the following proviso shall be inserted :—

"Provided that nothing in this section shall affect the powers of the Returning Officer under the rules in Schedule one to this Act to examine the numbers on the backs of ballot papers for the purpose of identifying and rejecting ballot papers not duly issued."

Schedule I., Part I.

In rule 20, the words "with instruments for stamping thereon the official mark" shall be omitted, and after the words "either stamped or perforated and" there shall be inserted the words "immediately before it is so delivered."

For rule 34, the following rule shall be substituted :—

"34.—(1) Before the returning officer proceeds to count the votes he shall, in the presence of the agents of the candidates, open each ballot box and, taking out the ballot papers therein, shall count and record the number thereof and verify the ballot paper account given by each presiding officer by comparing it with the number of ballot papers so recorded by him and the unused and spoilt ballot papers in his possession and the tendered votes list, and shall reseal each sealed packet after examination. The returning officer shall thereupon mix together the whole of the ballot papers contained in the ballot boxes :

Provided that if, after counting and recording the number of ballot papers and verifying the number recorded as aforesaid, the returning officer finds that there is a

discrepancy between the number so recorded and the number stated in the ballot paper account and has reason to believe that the discrepancy has been caused by the insertion of ballot papers not duly issued, he may, before mixing the ballot papers together, examine the numbers printed on the backs of the ballot papers for the purpose of identifying and rejecting as invalid any ballot papers which have not been duly issued.

(2) The returning officer while counting and recording the number of ballot papers and verifying the number so recorded and counting the votes shall keep the ballot papers with their faces upwards and take all proper precautions for preventing any person from seeing the numbers printed on the backs of such papers and shall, if he himself examines such numbers for the purpose aforesaid, take all proper precautions for preventing any other person from seeing such numbers during such examination."

In rule 36, after paragraph 4, the following paragraph shall be inserted:—

"5. Not duly issued."

At the end of rule 36 the following words shall be inserted "he shall also report to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery the result of his verification of the ballot paper accounts, and shall, on request, allow any agents of the candidates, before such report is sent, to take copies of it."

In rule 37 all the words from "but shall proceed" to the end of the rule shall be omitted.

EXTRACT FROM THE MEMORANDUM EXPLAINING THE CLAUSES OF THE BILL.

PART III.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE.

Clause 9.—This clause provides that there should be one Register of Electors a year instead of two, and that the qualifying period should be reduced from six to three months. The annual register would correspond to the present Autumn Register and would come into force on the 15th October. There has been no General Election since 1900 between 15th April and 15th October (which is the period covered by the Spring Register) and ordinary Local Government Elections all fall during the period of the Autumn Register. It is estimated that the suppression of the Spring Register would effect an annual saving of approximately £250,000 commencing in the year 1927-8. This saving would be equally between the Exchequer and Local Authorities.

Clause 10.—This clause gives statutory authority to a system actually adopted in some northern towns, under which the Register at a polling station is divided to enable several issues of ballot papers to be made simultaneously. In such cases a larger number of electors can be allotted to each polling station and fewer Presiding Officers are required. It is estimated that the total saving to be effected at a General Election would be some thousands of pounds.

Clause 11.—Under the present law, a ballot paper must be stamped with an official mark *immediately* before being handed to the elector. If, through any inadvertence, the paper is not stamped, the vote is not valid and at every General Election a considerable number of votes are lost in this way and great dissatisfaction caused. Under the clause the official mark would be printed or stamped on the ballot papers prior to

the poll. This would not only prevent the loss of votes from failure at the station to stamp the papers but would also effect a considerable economy which cannot be closely estimated. Returning Officers who have been consulted agree that the risk of forgery of ballot papers will not be increased by the change, but a further safeguard is introduced in the Schedule giving the Returning Officer direct power—which he does not at present possess—to exclude forged ballot papers at the counting of the Votes.

Clause 12.—This clause, while effecting a small economy in fees, is intended to admit of more convenient polling arrangements in Orkney and Zetland. Under the present law the poll in these islands has to be kept open for two days. Were the poll limited to one day only, it would be possible to provide additional polling places at approximately the same total cost and it is represented that the net result would be advantageous to the electors.

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(continued from page 55).

committee meeting of the party is to be held. It won't do the representatives any harm, and it will help to create a public impression that your party is efficient and businesslike.

So then, let us, first, think out our propaganda thoroughly, and as a whole, secondly, let us do as much of it as our means will allow, thirdly, let us back it up by the personal canvass. Ablest writers than I have dealt, or will deal, with that.

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